

28 June 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Document Division

SUBJECT : Revision of the Intelligence Subject Code

1. Based on the Survey criticism of the Intelligence Subject Code with the recommendation that there be a "new look" at the ISC, I assigned to each Section Chief one or two sections of the Code Book. This was for the purpose of noting where (1) more cross references are necessary, (2) annotations or definitions would clarify the subject, and (3) duplications which need to be eliminated. All agreed after completing this assignment that this type of reconstruction of the ISC would only mend the broken fence and that there would still be many weak points inherent in its basic structure. Keeping the present ISC would require so many cross references and annotations that the appearance of the code would be greatly overshadowed, and still leave it with much to be corrected.

25X1A 2. The concept of the Intelligence Subject Code as conceived [REDACTED] in 1947, was to follow the organization and needs 25X1A

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[REDACTED]
Experience throughout the years has proven that OSI requests are not always limited to research alone nor are ORR requests only for the economic. It is very common for manufacturing plants to conduct extensive research and, therefore, it is difficult to make this distinction in coding.

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3. The attached recommendation prepared by [REDACTED] would seem to outline a practical solution in brief. It would certainly give a "new look" to our entire classification structure. A more simplified system would tend to bring about more uniformity in coding and make retrieval simpler. A commodity, for example, would be coded in only 1 place. Modifiers or action slash codes would distinguish between research, production, order of battle, etc. When subjects such as political foreign policy and opposed to economic foreign policy cannot be brought together, then adequate cross references would be necessary. There are many problems which Mr. Young did not discuss in his paper, such as (1) growing emphasis on subjects of electronics,

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guided missiles, and nuclear energy, each of which could well claim importance enough for entire sections; (2) difference between intelligence and military or combat intelligence, etc.

4. Any revision of such magnitude requires a great deal of time- 6 to 12 months- and needs to be assigned as a full time responsibility to someone thoroughly familiar with our present system working with an active and interested committee.

5. ACSI Draft Subject Code tries to solve Army's problems by using terminal digits to such a degree that a "librarian" would spend half his time trying to decide which digit to use. Retrieval would be even more difficult than it is today. It doesn't seem logical that any researcher would come to a Library or a Document Center to find out the status of training for a small reserve amphibious unit in East Germany. And yet the code [redacted] is provided. I understand that the Tech Command Libraries are so small that the simplest form of classification is used.

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Chief, Analysis Branch

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Attachment: Memorandum by [redacted] re above subject